encroached upon was ready to beat those people. Therefore the Pulayas left the dead body there and ran away for life. The Hon'ble Minister may be pleased to find out a burial ground for these people.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I will look into the matter.

*Demand put and carried*

**Rs. 1,000—2-C-Veterinary—Cost of Medicines**

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,000 under "2 C—Veterinary—Cost of medicines". Due to the high increase in the cost of medicines, the budget provision for purchasing medicines for the Veterinary institutions has become insufficient to meet the actual requirements. Savings also are not available. Hence this request.

*Demand put and carried*

**Rs. 500 under 4—Co-operative—Miscellaneous**

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 500 under "4 - Co-operative—Miscellaneous". An amount of Rs. 500 given to the Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society No. 335 had to be written off since the Society was subsequently liquidated. To write off the amount under Advances an amount of Rs. 500 has to be adjusted from "4 Co-operative—Miscellaneous" for purposes of accounts. There is no provision under the head for the same. Hence an additional allotment of Rs. 500 is necessary under the above head.

*Demand put and carried*

**Rs. 17 under 12 Jails—Cranganur—Dearness allowance**

**Rs. 124 under 11-A—Dearness allowance**

**Rs. 1,666 under 16-C—Dearness allowance**

**Rs. 214 under 16-C—Dearness allowance by transfer from District Magistrate**

**Rama Varmha Tampuran** *(Secretary to Government)*: I shall move items 16, 17, 18 and 19. All of them relate to dearness allowance, one in the Cranganur Jail and the others in the Magisterial Department. I request that the amounts may kindly he sanctioned.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Mr. President, I stand up here with very great reluctance to oppose this motion. Let me not be misunderstood as getting up to oppose a demand which is asked for granting dearness allowance to a particular class of Government servants. The object I have in view, Sir, in opposing this demand is to rivet the attention of the Government upon that this Honourable House is not satisfied with a dearness allowance of Rs. 6 up to Rs. 60. The present dearness allowance is to the extent of an amount of Rs. 6 and limiting its scope to persons drawing a pay of Rs. 60 per month. In other words, those drawing more than Rs. 60 do not draw anything and those drawing below Rs. 60 get Rs. 6 only. The object in opposing this motion is to request the Government that they may be pleased, regard being had to the high prices now obtaining with reference to every article necessary for human existence, to increase the amount of dearness allowance by a few rupees more and to give the same to all officers and other Government servants drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 125 a month as is done in the Province of Madras. I am sure the Government's attention would have been drawn to the recent order of the Madras Government in this behalf wherein it is stated as follows.—

"In view of the further rise in the cost of living the Government of Madras have decided to grant with effect from June 1943 increased rates of dearness allowance to Government servants serving under them including those whose headquarters are situated in Indian States adjoining the Madras Presidency. For those drawing pay below Rs. 40 a month the monthly rate of allowance in areas A and B will be Rs 8½ and in area C 6½. For those drawing pay of Rs. 40 or more but not above Rs. 125 in areas A and B, the allowance will be Rs. 11, for those drawing pay of Rs. 40 or more but not above Rs. 90 in area C the allowance will be Rs. 9.

"Persons drawing pay of more than Rs. 125 but not more than Rs. 136 in areas A and B will receive such allowances as will bring their total emoluments up to Rs. 136 a month; similarly persons drawing pay of more than Rs. 90 in area C will receive as will bring their total emoluments up to Rs. 99 a month."

Such a liberal order has been passed and acted upon by the Madras Government which in very many good cases has been and ought to be a guide for Cochin. My request to the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government is that they may be pleased to adopt the same rules here and thus come to the rescue of the hard hit Government servants whose position is something peculiar in itself. Persons other than Government servants have various methods of meeting their demads.

**Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait** *(Mattancheri):* Our State is very small.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Our Government servants Sir, are not highly paid in the lower grades. Their position is something which requires every sympathetic consideration. With regard to those persons who get below Rs. 125 a month, the policy followed by the Madras Government may kindly be followed by this Government. It is not at all with a view to throwing out this demand, but it is only to rivet the attention of the Government to the necessity of granting more liberal allowance that I oppose the motion. I hope Sir, the House will have the opportunity of hearing something from the Hon'ble President which will mitigate the grievances of the class of Government servants I have referred to.

**Mr. President:** I may assure the Hon'ble Members that this subject has received the earnest consideration of the Government from time to time regard being had to the conditions and standards of living. While the Hon'ble Member has referred at length to the dearness allowance granted by the Madras Government, he has not compared the position in the Travancore State. If you look into this you will find that a large majority of Government servants here are paid twice the rate that is given by Travancore. The Travancore State is giving dearness allowance to more highly paid servants, which we are not doing, but so far as the great majority of Government servants are concerned, —and also the Government servants who are most hard hit that is the low paid ones,—this State is now going to give dearness allowance at double the rate that is being given by the sister State of Travancore. I think the Hon'ble Members will realise that in these matters the comparison should be more with other States than with British India. But I can assure the Hon'ble Member that this has received and will receive the earnest attention of the Government and we are most sympathetic to the points brought forward and they will receive the most careful consideration. As I announced an hour ago, an increase in the rate of dearness allowance by 50 per cent has been given and the question is being examined as to whether the time has come to do something more. In that spirit the Hon'ble Member will realise that we are considering the matter very sympathetically.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi):* I wish to add one word to what the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri said. My personal opinion is that the dearness allowance proposed to be granted is totally inadequate. Whatever may be the procedure or practice followed in Madras and Travancore, we know the conditions here and I can say boldly that it is inadequate. In the Tata's they are paid Rs. 18—12—0, it is a private firm. Other companies are paying Rs. 15 or Rs. 12 as dearness allowance. What is the condition in Ernakulam? The cost of living is very high. These poor clerks drawing Rs. 20 or so take leave if they are not natives of this place. The result is efficiency of public service is affected. It is the point I want to impress upon the House. When the stomach is pinching how can the clerks work? Their calculations will go wrong, they will become insubordinate, they will become angry, because their stomach is pinching. The other day in the Munsiff's Court, though there are 5 or 6 copyists, not a single copyist was present. How can we get copies of judgments. I am not speaking from imagination. These clerks do not report for duty because they cannot afford to live in Ernakulam with Rs. 20 or 25. For one meal you have to pay as.10. That will come to Rs. 20 or 25. He wants tiffin, he wants clothing. All these things require how much? He might perhaps have some aged parents to support. When all these considerations are properly looked into, is it sufficient? Without looking into British India, Madras or Italy *(laughter)*, simply consider the question impartially. The Hon'ble President does not belong to this place. The other members of the Treasury Bench know the place. If there is any exaggeration, tell me. I am only stating facts in a small way. I do not say the Hon'ble President is not sympathetic. I know he is very sympathetic, but this is a bureaucratic government. There are so many difficulties for getting the orders passed even if he wish. Therefore, I would request the Government once again to consider the matter with a sympathetic spirit to maintain the efficiency of the public service.

**Mr. V. J. Mathai** *(Planters):* Sir, Now that the Hon'ble President has said that the matter is receiving the earnest attention, I only want to inform the Government and the powers that be that non-official opinion is almost unanimous—we have been discussing this matter in the M. L. C. Quarters. I only want to emphasise that non-official opinion shall be behind the Diwan and the Minister to get greater dearness allowance for Government employees.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* I may be permitted to withdraw my opposition in the light of the helpful observations made.

*Demands put and carried*

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly